



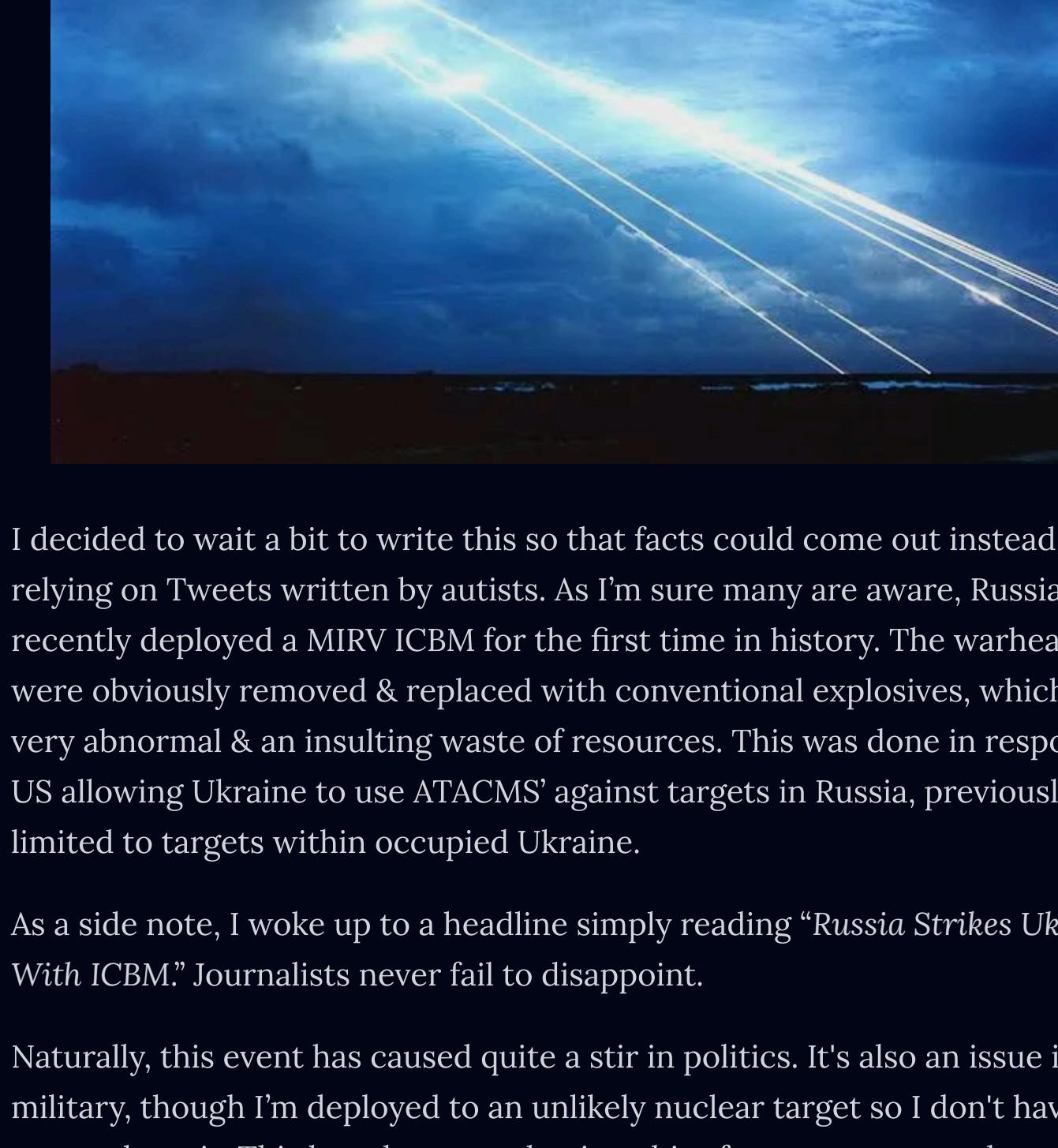
In light of recent events...

DER EINZIGE

NOV 23, 2024

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I decided to wait a bit to write this so that facts could come out instead of relying on Tweets written by autists. As I'm sure many are aware, Russia has recently deployed a MIRV ICBM for the first time in history. The warheads were obviously removed & replaced with conventional explosives, which is very abnormal & an insulting waste of resources. This was done in response to US allowing Ukraine to use ATACMS' against targets in Russia, previously limited to targets within occupied Ukraine.

As a side note, I woke up to a headline simply reading "Russia Strikes Ukraine With ICBM." Journalists never fail to disappoint.

Naturally, this event has caused quite a stir in politics. It's also an issue in the military, though I'm deployed to an unlikely nuclear target so I don't have to worry about it. This has also caused quite a bit of concern among those who still believe Russia is a competent military power, something about escalation.

To start off, ATACMS' being used against Russian territory isn't new. The previous limits were basically only from the US, similar weapon systems such as Storm Shadow & Neptune have always been at the full disposal of Ukrainian forces & have hit Russia proper since the opening of the conflict. There's also only about 40 ATACMS' in Ukraine, so the ability to use them isn't really a big deal. Although Conservative pseudo-pacifists spent the week complaining about Biden starting WWIII, nothing actually changed with the war or NATO's role in it.

For the uninitiated, ATACMS means Army TACTical Missile System. It is a short range ballistic missile that is roughly similar to Russian Iskander & Scud missile systems. It launches from the M270 & HIMARS MLRS systems. The primary munitions used is a roughly 500lb explosive, 300km range. Although fairly unique in the American arsenal, it isn't anything odd & similar systems have been in use since WW2. I have seen some claim that Ukraine lacks the expertise to actually operate the missile, but this is false & reflects a lack of familiarity with the system. ATACMS' utilize the exact same control mechanisms already present in the HIMARS system, the sole exception is the imputing of GPS coordinates for targeting. The GPS targeting is based on the already existing GPS network present on every cell phone & its corresponding degree system for geolocation. The only thing that is military specific is the cryptography equipment to avoid electronic warfare interference.

It's almost certain that initial training & targeting data is provided by NATO partners, but this isn't anything new. This has been the case for the entire war, a large AFU unit is currently training in France at this very moment. This targeting assistance has also been the cause of AFU assassinations of Russian generals & the infamous sinking of the Moskva, Russia's (former) flagship. I say this all to drive home the point that ATACMS' being authorized for use in Russian territory is not actually a significant escalation, especially in light of far more serious events. The only reason this story is notable is because of the exact timing, plus the erroneous belief that Trump is an isolationist or pro-Russia.

What is a significant escalation is Russia's deployment of a nuclear capable ICBM. This has never happened in history. During the Cold War, a system being 'nuclear capable' was pretty important. Vehicles like the B-52 or Jaguar were much more important to keep a track of. In the event of a crash or accidental breach of airspace, the aircraft in question being nuclear capable raised the stakes considerably. An ICBM is a little different, because it's generally considered to be a purpose built nuclear weapon. ICBM has always been used almost synonymously with nuclear weapon.

That being said, the weapons rumored to be utilized against Ukraine are barely able to be considered ICBMs. Initially, Western sources theorized it was an RS-26. This missile just barely meets the range requirements to be considered an ICBM, but is a slight downgrade from the RS-24 which is a bona fide ICBM. The RS-26 was designed to be the primary weapon for use against Europe. Later, Russia claimed that it was in fact a Oreshnik. This missile is a modified RS-24, with newer engines meant to be hypersonic (Mach 11+). Regardless, the specifics don't change much. It's quite clear why Russia did this.

Some on the Ukrainian side have claimed that Russia is simply running out of their typical weapons, such as the Iskander, which would be a more appropriate weapon-target match & not cause an international crisis. I don't think this is true. I'm sure Russian warehouses are looking emptier than usual, but highly doubt that they're so short on tactical missiles or guided bombs as to resort to wasting their few nuclear delivery systems.

The correct answer is probably the obvious one, Russia is doing its typical threats to disrupt Western support for Ukraine. It's no coincidence they're doing this during the transition period for the both the US & many European elections. Many are probably already familiar with these sorts of things, it's the same as Russia flying Tu-95s over Alaskan air space from time to time. During Operation Inherent Resolve in Syria, Russian forces would regularly assume a combative position around US troops to dissuade them from moving freely until we realized they wouldn't dare fire on us openly.

We should also look at this in light of the actual situation on the ground. Over the past 3 weeks, Russia launched a counterattack on AFU positions in the Kursk region. Despite bringing in several battalions of DPRK troops, this counterattack has so far been a complete failure. Russia's only gains in the past year have been the slow advance in the Chasiv Yar direction. They gained a few pyrrhic victories in Bakhmut & Abdriivka, but at a massive cost. This pales in comparison to AFU counteroffensives in the Kherson & Kharkiv directions, which Russian forces have not recovered from. Even the failure of the 2023 counteroffensive near Vuhledar couldn't be utilized by Russian forces to push the lines forward. Wagner, their most effective unit, launched a rebellion. All of this on top of the fact that we recently celebrated the 1000th day of the "3 day special military operation."

Russia's invasion, even if another Minsk agreement takes shape & they hold on to already captured territory, has been a comically poor performance. The Russian economy has effectively collapsed, the ruble recently dropped to being worth less than 0.01 USD despite USD having its own bad inflation. Despite the claims of some Zblogger, this war started with an attempt to replicate the US' success during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. They never even made it to the insurgency phase of the war.

This leads us to the conclusion that Russia is now becoming increasingly desperate, and needs to bring the threat of mutually assured destruction in order to hopefully prevent Western support for Ukraine. It's debatable whether or not halting US support will actually be a decisive outcome anyway, as most of the EU has decided to increase aid if the US pulls out & Ukraine has heavily upgraded its own domestic production. Virtually all of their drones are already domestically produced & an increasing amount of shells as well. If the pseudo-pacifists are right that Trump will immediately halt aid, it doesn't look like much will change on the ground level.

Regardless, the massive & open NATO support for Ukraine, as well as the support for Russia by China, Iran & North Korea, are deeply worrying. Not to me, but to someone I'm sure. It's hard to argue we aren't living through our own Cuban Missile Crisis, the difference being that we already have open warfare being waged.

I will also say that per my deep state insider (guy I know who's a desk jockey in the Pentagon), several units were moved to DEFCON 2 for a time. This has only happened a few times in history, so it seems like our current overlords are taking this seriously. Given the timeframe of this, I'd theorize that it occurred after detecting an ICBM launch in Russia & not knowing why. Which, in turn, leads me to believe that Russia didn't use the red telephone to communicate this occurrence which is laughably irresponsible. Imagine if we started a thermonuclear exchange because of this, lmao.

In the coming days, I'll likely expand on my previous articles relating to the WWIII question with an emphasis on personal actions & CBRN warfare.

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This is another article taking aim at something that's generally

This is also a piece of shit, and recontextualizing it.

AUG 26, 2024 · DER EINZIGE

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